IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A virtual community system managing a

plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said plurality of users

comprising:

        a community server to form a persistent virtual community for each of said

resources;

        at least one component monitoring each user of said plurality of users

accessing said plurality of resources;

        said community server associating each resource of said plurality of

resources accessed by each user of said plurality of users a particular user to

said particular each user of said plurality of users;

        said community server being operable to dynamically creating form a

dynamic persistent virtual community for each of said resources when a first user

of said plurality of users is accessing each resource of said resources; said

virtual community including those users accessing said particular each of said

resource.

2.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the

plurality of resources is associated with a corresponding community.

3.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the

plurality of resources comprises a web resource.

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4.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the

plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource.

5.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the

plurality of resources has a unique name.

6.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein users

automatically become members of the virtual community associated with said

particular resource when they access the resource.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ <u>operating</u> to provide community services to community

members.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ <u>operating</u> to enable communication between

community members .

9.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ <u>operating</u> to enable community members to perform

community activities.

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10.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide collaboration between community

members.

11.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide notification to community members

when a new user joins the community.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to enable community members to

communicate with users outside the community.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide community members with

information regarding the community.

14.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 13, wherein the

information comprises information presented to the community members while

they are accessing the particular resource.

15.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to enable new community services provided

by community members.

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16.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein said resources comprise private resources each having a unique name.

17.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide community member authentication services.

18.   (previously presented) .   The system of claim 1, further comprising a web resource server associated with said particular resource.

19.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 18, wherein each web resource server can contact at least one of said community servers to provide community services.

20.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet.

21.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members.

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22.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to uniquely identify each community member

across multiple communities.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to track community member's activities.

24.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to organize an information content for each

virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to keep statistical information regarding the

community.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to connect users who have accessed the

same resource.

27.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, further comprising a

proxy server coupled to the community server and a web resource server, the

proxy server ~~operable~~ operating to serve a web resource content and connect to

the community based on the resource being served.

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28.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to combine a plurality of communities into a

larger community based upon similar resource use.

29.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of

communities from a web site.

30.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community

server is further ~~operable~~ operating to provide customized filtering preferences

set by users, systems and communities.

Claims 31-59 (Canceled)

60.   (Currently Amended)   A virtual community system associating a

plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by each user of said

plurality of users comprising:

         a plurality of virtual communities each having a virtual community area,

where resources are mapped to virtual communities ~~by uniform resource locators~~

~~(URLs)~~, and each virtual community of said plurality of virtual communities

contains community and user access information for said resources;

         a user access database containing resource access records from each

user of said plurality of users for each resource of said plurality of resources;

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a virtual community server <u>operated</u> ~~operable~~ to monitor accesses from each of said users to each of said resources, said <u>persistent virtual community</u> server also performing additional functions including:

recording accesses into said user access database;

mapping each accessed resource to a virtual community ~~with a uniform resource locator (URL)~~;

<u>dynamically creating said persistent virtual community when a first user of said plurality of users is accessing said resource</u>;

updating said virtual community with access from said user to said resource.

61.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the virtual community areas are stored in directories, files, or databases.

62.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the virtual community server comprises a group of servers.

63.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the user access database comprises a distributed database.

64.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area is created on demand when a first user accesses a resource.

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65.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the

user access database creates a new user record only when a new user entry is

queried and is not yet in the database.

66.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein each

virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages.

67.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein each

virtual community area comprises information regarding a particular community.

68.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein each

virtual community area comprises server side components that support user and

community interactivity and activities.

69.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual

community area may utilize server side technologies including server side script,

CGI, Servlet, web services and weblogs.

70.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the

user access database comprises the current status of individual user's

information.

71.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the

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user access database also stores user personal data including messages from

other users, preferences or privacy/security settings.

72.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the

community server is operable further to group different community areas together

to form a larger community for a bigger scope of resources.

73.   (Currently Amended)

        A method of forming resource-based virtual communities with a plurality of

users and a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of:

        allowing each of said users to access said plurality of resources;

        causing a server to monitor each user accessing a resource;

        causing said server to associate each resource accessed with a particular

user accessing it;

        causing said server to form a dynamic persistent virtual community for

each of said resources, said community comprising those users who have

accessed a particular resource, dynamically creating said persistent virtual

community when a first user of said plurality of users is accessing said resource;

74.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein the resource

being accessed by the user is a web resource, including a web site, a web page,

a newsgroup or a discussion forum.

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75.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein the resource

being accessed by the user is a non-web resource, including a software product,

a bulletin board, a game, an FTP site, a file, an image, a photo, or products that

can be shared by users.

76.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein each of the

plurality of accessed resources is associated with a corresponding resource

based virtual community.

77.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, further comprising the

step of enabling new community services for community members.

78.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, further comprising the

step of providing users community information and community services including

hit count, total users, current users, feedback, comments, ratings, reviews,

references or other useful information for the resource.

79.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, further comprising the

step of enabling user collaboration with other community members including

making comments, publishing reviews, rating resources, writing notes, sending

messages, sharing whiteboards, chatting, helping each other, asking and

answering questions, exchanging ideas, interests matching, scheduling

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meetings, online auctions, online dating, broadcasting, marketing or

advertisements.

80.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73 further comprising the

steps of:

        allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources;

        causing an accessed resource to return the original resource; and

        causing the accessed resource to connect users to a virtual community

based on the accessed resource.

81.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73-further comprising the

steps of:

        allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources through a

proxy server;

        causing the proxy server to return the original resource; and

        causing the proxy server to connect the user to the a virtual community

based on the accessed resource.

82.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73 further comprising the

steps of:

        allowing client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the

resource accessed by the user; and

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causing the client side software to connect the user to the virtual

community based on the accessed resource.

83.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, further comprising

allowing the user to access the virtual community and the accessed resource in a

non-distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows,

balloon help messages, task bars or embedded frames inside a current web

page.

84.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the

plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a

software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or or a commodity.

85.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the user

connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a

cellular phone.

86.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, further comprising a

client side software installable to a user's computer, the software ~~operable~~

<u>operates</u> to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a

virtual community based on an accessed resource.

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87.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser ~~operable~~

~~of~~ to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user.

88.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to

connect ~~operable for connecting~~ to the virtual community when selected by the

user.

89.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user

accesses the resource.

90.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is ~~operable~~ further operated to display a virtual community page

displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the

resource.

91.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is a standalone software agent.

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92.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is further operated operable-to discover current web resources

accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers.

93.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is further operated operable-to detect a current resource being used by

hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver,

or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events

from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs.

94.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is a browser.

95.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is further operated operable-to make multiple connections to multiple

virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus

enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously.

96.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser.

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97.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 96, wherein the browser

plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash,

ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection, protocol filters or extension.

98.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or

extensions.

99.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side

software is further operated ~~operable~~ to detect current software used by the user

and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource.

100.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 99, wherein the client side

software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further

operated ~~operable~~ to run along with the software resource when the software

resource is started by the user.

101.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 99, wherein the client side

software resides in a software resource to provide new functions, features,

services and applications.

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